

In re MAMILLAPALLI ET AL., Application No. 10/721,939  
Amendment B

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for distributing information, the method comprising:

identifying one or more but less than all of a plurality of nodes to acknowledge a multicast message, the multicast message having as its destination address including a multicast address corresponding to the plurality of nodes, said one or more of the plurality of nodes consisting of less than all of the plurality of nodes; and

sending the multicast message to the plurality of nodes, the multicast message including an indication of said one or more but less than all of the plurality of nodes to acknowledge the multicast message;

wherein the multicast address is distinct from the indication of said one or more but less than all of the plurality of nodes to acknowledge the multicast message, and is a non-broadcast address, and is a single address for the plurality of nodes.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the multicast message includes an indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message; wherein the multicast address is distinct from the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, comprising setting the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement to indicate immediate acknowledgment if the multicast message is the first message of a messaging window.

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Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, comprising setting the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement to indicate delayed acknowledgement if the multicast message is not the first message of the messaging window.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, comprising receiving an acknowledgment message corresponding to the multicast message from a node of said one or more of the plurality of nodes, and in response, identifying the multicast message and all previously sent messages as being acknowledged by the plurality of nodes.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method performed by a node, the method comprising: receiving a multicast message sent to a plurality of nodes by a sender, the multicast message including as its destination address a multicast address corresponding to the plurality of nodes ~~and being a non-broadcast address, and with the multicast message also including~~ an indication of at least one designated acknowledgement node of the plurality of nodes; said at least one designated acknowledgement node designating less than all of the plurality of nodes; ~~and wherein the indication of said at least one designated acknowledgement node being is~~ distinct from the multicast address; ~~and wherein the multicast address is a non-broadcast address and is a single address for the plurality of nodes;~~ and in response to identifying that the indication of at least one designated acknowledgement node includes the node, sending an acknowledgement message to the sender of the multicast message.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the acknowledgement message acknowledges at least one other message than the multicast message.

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Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein the multicast message includes an indication whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message; wherein the multicast address is distinct from the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the indication whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message corresponds to delay acknowledgement; and the method comprises delaying said sending the acknowledgement message.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for communicating information, the method comprising:

a node receiving a multicast message sent to a plurality of nodes, the multicast message including as its destination address a multicast address corresponding to the plurality of nodes and the multicast message also including an indication of whether or not to delay acknowledgement of the multicast message, the indication of whether or not to delay acknowledgement of the multicast message being distinct from the multicast address, wherein the multicast address is a single address for the plurality of nodes; and

the node delaying acknowledgement of the multicast message in response to the indication identifying to delay acknowledgement of the multicast message, wherein node is configured to immediately acknowledge the multicast message if the indication of whether or not to delay acknowledgement of the multicast message did not said identify to delay acknowledgement of the multicast message, and the indication of whether or not to delay acknowledgement of the multicast message does not define whether a message is a multicast or unicast message.

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Claim 12 (currently amended): An apparatus for communicating information, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a message sent to a plurality of nodes, the message including as its destination address a multicast address corresponding to the plurality of nodes and the multicast message also including an indication of whether or not to delay acknowledgement of the message, the multicast address being a non-broadcast address and is a single address for the plurality of nodes, and the indication of whether or not to delay acknowledgement of the multicast message being distinct from the multicast address; and

means for delaying acknowledging acknowledgement of the message in response to the indication identifying to delay acknowledgement of the message including as its destination address the multicast address and for immediately acknowledging the message in response to the indication not identifying to delay acknowledgement of the message including as its destination address the multicast address.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An apparatus for distributing information, the apparatus comprising:

means for identifying one or more of a plurality of nodes to acknowledge a multicast message, the multicast message including as its destination address a multicast address corresponding to the plurality of nodes, wherein the multicast address is a non-broadcast, single address for the plurality of nodes; and

means for sending the multicast message to the plurality of nodes, the multicast message including an indication of said one or more but less than all of the plurality of nodes to acknowledge the multicast message; wherein said one or more of the plurality of nodes consists of less than all of the plurality of nodes, and the multicast address is distinct from the indication of said one or more but less than all of the plurality of nodes to acknowledge the multicast message.

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Claim 14 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the multicast message includes an indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message; wherein the multicast address is distinct from the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message.

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of claim 14, comprising means for setting the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement to indicate immediate acknowledgment if the multicast message is the first message of a messaging window.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 15, comprising means for setting the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement to indicate delayed acknowledgment if the multicast message is not the first message of the messaging window.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 13, comprising means for receiving an acknowledgment message corresponding to the multicast message, and in response, identifying the multicast message and all previously sent messages as being acknowledged.

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Claim 19 (currently amended): An apparatus performed by a node, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a multicast message sent to a plurality of nodes by a sender, the multicast message including as its destination address a multicast address corresponding to the plurality of nodes and the multicast message also including an indication of at least one designated acknowledgement node of the plurality of nodes, the indication of at least one designated acknowledgement node being distinct from the multicast address, and the multicast address being a non-broadcast address and is a single address for the plurality of nodes; and

means for in response to identifying that the indication of at least one designated acknowledgement node includes the node, sending an acknowledgement message to the sender of the multicast message.

Claim 20 (original): The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the acknowledgement message acknowledges at least one other message than the multicast message.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the multicast message includes an indication whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message; wherein the multicast address is distinct from the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message.

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the indication whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message corresponds to delay acknowledgement; and the apparatus comprises means for delaying said sending the acknowledgement message.

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Claim 23 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing steps for distributing information, said steps comprising:

identifying one or more but less than all of a plurality of nodes to acknowledge a multicast message, the multicast message including as its destination address a multicast address corresponding to the plurality of nodes, said one or more of the plurality of nodes consisting of less than all of the plurality of nodes wherein the multicast address is a single address for the plurality of nodes; and

sending the multicast message to the plurality of nodes, the multicast message including an indication of said one or more but less than all of the plurality of nodes to acknowledge the multicast message; wherein the multicast address is distinct from the indication of said one or more of the plurality of nodes to acknowledge the multicast message.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the multicast message includes an indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message; wherein the multicast address is distinct from the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message.

Claim 25 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 24, comprising setting the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement to indicate immediate acknowledgment if the multicast message is the first message of a messaging window.

Claim 26 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 25, comprising setting the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement to indicate delayed acknowledgment if the multicast message is not the first message of the messaging window.

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Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 23, comprising receiving an acknowledgment message corresponding to the multicast message, and in response, identifying the multicast message and all previously sent messages as being acknowledged.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing steps by a node, said steps comprising:

receiving a multicast message sent to a plurality of nodes by a sender, the multicast message including as its destination address a multicast address corresponding to the plurality of nodes and being a non-broadcast address, and the multicast message also including an indication of at least one designated acknowledgement node of the plurality of nodes; said at least one designated acknowledgement node designating less than all of the plurality of nodes; and the indication of at least one designated acknowledgement node being distinct from the multicast address; wherein the multicast address is a single address for the plurality of nodes; and

in response to identifying that the indication of at least one designated acknowledgement node includes the node, sending an acknowledgement message to the sender of the multicast message.

Claim 30 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the acknowledgement message acknowledges at least one other message than the multicast message.

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Claim 31 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the multicast message includes an indication whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message; wherein the multicast address is distinct from the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message.

Claim 32 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the indication whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message corresponds to delay acknowledgement; and the method comprises delaying said sending the acknowledgment message.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, comprising setting the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement to indicate delayed acknowledgment if the multicast message is not the first message of the messaging window.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more of the plurality of nodes includes at least two of the plurality of nodes.

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Claim 35 (previously presented): A method for distributing information, the method comprising:

identifying one or more of a plurality of nodes to acknowledge a multicast message, the multicast message includes an indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the multicast message; and setting the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement to indicate immediate acknowledgment if the multicast message is the first message of a messaging window; and

sending the multicast message to the plurality of nodes, the multicast message including an indication of said one or more of the plurality of nodes to acknowledge the message.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of claim 35, comprising setting the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement to indicate delayed acknowledgment if the multicast message is not the first message of the messaging window.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A method for distributing information, the method comprising:

identifying one or more but less than all of a plurality of nodes to acknowledge a message, the message including an as its destination address a multicast address corresponding to the plurality of nodes, nodes; said one or more of the plurality of nodes consisting of less than all of the plurality of nodes wherein the multicast address is a single address for the plurality of nodes; and

sending the message to the plurality of nodes, the message including an indication of said one or more but less than all of the plurality of nodes to acknowledge the message; wherein with the multicast address is distinct from the indication of said one or more but less than all of the plurality of nodes.

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Claim 38 (currently amended): The method of claim 37, wherein the message includes an indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the message, the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement of the message being distinct from the multicast address.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of claim 38, comprising setting the indication of whether to immediately acknowledge or delay acknowledgement to indicate immediate acknowledgment based on its position in a messaging window.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The method of claim 37, wherein said one or more but less than all of the plurality of nodes includes at least two of the plurality of nodes.